

**Focus On R&D, Innovation To Boost Food Security, Urges Najib
Bernama
8 Oct, 2013
By Ahmad Fuad Yahya**

NUSA DUA (BALI), Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has urged the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) to focus on research and development (R&D) and innovation in the field of food security in order to face global competition.

Najib said the focus on R&D would also bring prosperity to the farmers.

He gave an example of the oil palm industry where productivity, from the aspect of yield, has not increased compared to its competitor soyabean.

"If we do not boost R&D and output, the palm oil industry will come under pressure and may not increase its market share compared to its competitors," he said.

Najib said this to Malaysian journalists at the Apec summit, themed 'Towards Resilient Asia-Pacific, Engine of Global Growth'.

The 21st Apec summit, which ended today, agreed on seven resolutions, including one to further boost trade within the region.

Najib also gave an example of the use of new technology to boost the prawn cultivation which has managed to boost the earnings of the farmers.

He said a US company, Darden, planned to invest in the breeding of lobsters in Semporna, Sabah.

"Darden uses modern technology in the breeding of lobsters. If the project is implemented it will bring benefits in terms of increase in exports of the lobsters and boost farmers' earnings," he said.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=984183>